**Why Test School Drinking Water for Lead?**  
Lead from any source can cause health problems in children.  Lead is most dangerous for pregnant women, infants, and children under 6 years old.  Exposure to high levels of lead during pregnancy contributes to low birth weight and developmental delays in infants.  If lead is found at any water outlet in a school at levels above 15 µg/L (micrograms per liter), or parts per billion (ppb), the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recommends taking action to reduce the exposure to lead. This is called an “actionable” level, meaning, if detected, mitigation efforts are needed. The EPA action level of 15 ppb of lead in drinking water was established based on reasonable risk assessments. It is the level that requires additional corrective and educational actions, but does not necessarily directly correlate to increased blood-lead levels. Blood-lead levels are reflective of a variety of factors, such as age; exposure to dusts, paint chips, or soil containing lead; and the amount of lead contaminated water consumed daily. For women exposed to lead in the past, pregnancy can also affect blood-lead levels by releasing lead that was stored in bones. Nationally, the biggest source of increased blood-lead levels in children is the ingestion of lead-based paint chips.

**Sources of Lead in Drinking Water**  
Lead is a common metal found in the environment.  The primary source of lead exposure for most children is lead-based paint manufactured before 1978, the year that lead in paint was outlawed.  Other sources of lead exposure include lead-contaminated plumbing materials, especially older ones experiencing corrosion. Drinking water exposed to faucets that contain lead is one possible source, but a less common source of lead exposure. In addition, lead can be found in a number of consumer products, including certain types of pottery, pewter, brass fixtures, food, and cosmetics.    
The District receives its drinking water from the County Water Supply.  The County routinely tests for lead and their results meet NYS drinking water standards. While water coming into our buildings is within federal safety standards for lead, plumbing materials including pipes, some soldering material, new brass faucets, fittings, and valves, including even those advertised as “lead-free,” may contribute to lead in drinking water. Flushing typically can lower the presence of lead in water.

**ADDITIONAL REFERENCES**  
**AAP Healthy Children:**  
[**https://www.healthychildren.org/English/safety-prevention/all-around/Pages/Blood-Lead-Levels-in-Children-What-Parents-Need-to-Know.aspx**](https://www.healthychildren.org/English/safety-prevention/all-around/Pages/Blood-Lead-Levels-in-Children-What-Parents-Need-to-Know.aspx)

**CDC:**

**Lead home page:**  
[**http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/**](http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/)

**Lead in drinking water:**  
[**http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/tips/water.htm**](http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/tips/water.htm)

**National Institute Environmental Health Sciences:**

**http://www.niehs.nih.gov/health/topics/agents/lead/**